

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
13 November 2003 (13.11.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 03/093958 A1(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F 1/00,  
H04M 1/667

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/01873

(22) International Filing Date: 2 May 2003 (02.05.2003) (74) Agent: BRADLEY, David, William; BT Group Legal, Intellectual Property Department, Holborn Centre, 8th Floor, 120 Holborn, London, EC1N 2TE (GB).

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) Designated States (national): CA, US.

(26) Publication Language: English  
(30) Priority Data:  
02253141.2 3 May 2002 (03.05.2002) EP

(84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR).

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**Published:**

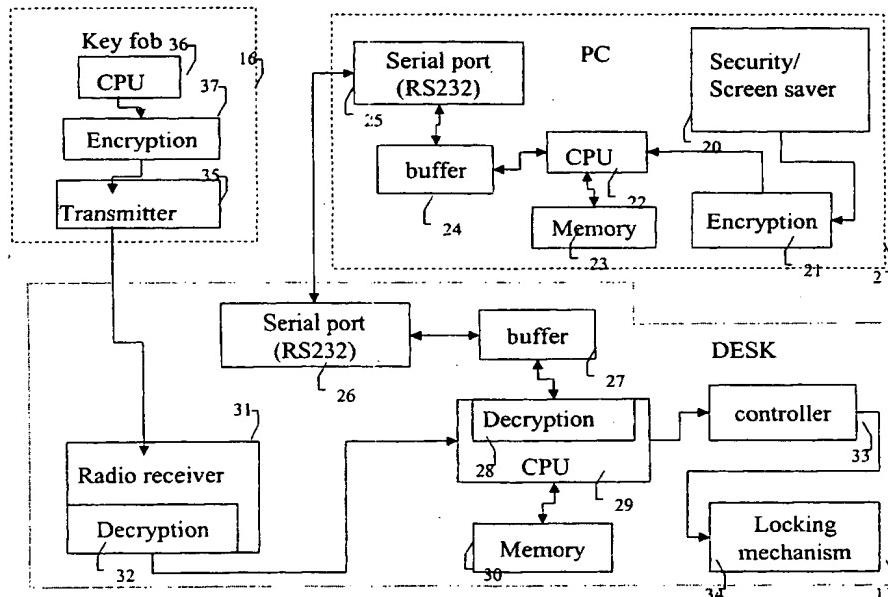
- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: INFORMATION SECURITY



WO 03/093958 A1

(57) **Abstract:** A personal computer (2) is responsive to the presence of an authorised user to transmit release signals from a CPU 22 to a CPU 28 to cause the CPU 28 to effect the release of a locking mechanism (34) controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. In the absence of periodic refresher signals from the PC 2, the CPU 28 causes the locking mechanism to lock the drawers to prevent unauthorised access. The transmitted signals from the PC 2 may also be used to prevent or allow use of electrical or electronic apparatuses and/or to control environmental conditions appropriate to the presence or absence of users.